

Plane Designer Says Rels Faked Photos

Claim of Downing U-2 Held Not on Up and Up

BURBANK, Calif., May 10 (UPI)—The designer of America's U-2 airplane said last night he doubts Russian claims of having shot down one of the high-flying, long-range planes.

He believes instead that some mechanical failure of the mysterious craft might have allowed it to fall intact into Russian possession. Photographs of wreckage purporting to be of the downed craft were faked by Russia, he said.

C. L. Johnson, veteran Lockheed design engineer, based his statement on a close study of the photographs released by Russia.

"I am convinced that the

Russians for some reason have released pictures of some other airplane crash," said Mr. Johnson. He added the pictures probably were those of a wrecked Russian Beagle bomber.

"I do not believe they shot down the U-2 either with a missile or another aircraft," said Mr. Johnson.

"If they have the U-2 it is because some mechanical or oxygen failure caused it to descend far below its normal cruising altitude reported to be about 10 miles."

Mr. Johnson said the Russian-released photographs did not match the design characteristics of the U-2.

"Using the original picture, not one single U-2 part could

be identified in the wreckage," he said.

He said he based his doubt of the Russian claim of shooting down the craft on grounds that aerial photographs taken from the U-2 probably would have been destroyed in the wreckage, much of which appeared damaged by fire.

It was his belief, Mr. Johnson indicated, that Russian experts have hidden away the U-2 if they have it — for study.

U. S. Spy Satellites Can't Be Downed

The United States, whose U-2 spy plane was shot down while taking photographs over Russia, is developing two reconnaissance satellites which could not be blasted from the sky by any known means.

One of the spy satellites, the Samos, would be able to take actual pictures of Soviet territory. The other, the Midas, would use infrared sensing devices to detect the heat trails of missiles in flight.

The first Samos is scheduled for launching later this year, but it will be several years before a complete Samos surveillance system is in operation. The Midas is further along in development and may be in full operation by late 1963. (UPI)

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